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LARSON ANNOUNCES \$395,000 FEDERAL GRANT FOR HARTFORD'S CHARTER OAK HEALTH CENTER

HARTFORD- U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-1) today announced that a \$395,000 federal grant has been awarded to the Charter Oak Health Center (COHC) located in Hartford. The funding was awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the Ryan White Title III Early Intervention Services program.

The grant will help fund the center's mission of providing programs for low-income residents of Hartford who are infected by HIV/AIDS. Patients also have access to a variety of services through the center to improve health and quality of life including early intervention, case management, social services and food distribution. The COHC provides medical, dental and behavioral health services to the HIV/AIDS patients and has provided various services since 2000.

"This vital funding goes to assist people in Hartford who are badly in need of help," said Larson. "The Charter Oak Health Center does an extraordinary job of serving low-income residents who have HIV/AIDS and this grant will allow them to continue their indispensable work."

The Ryan White funding program is named for the Indiana teenager who

was infected with HIV/AIDS after a blood transfusion. He died in 1990.

Congressman Larson worked closely with the COHC to secure the grant and in December 2003, wrote a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services urging that the funding be awarded.

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